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Message Text

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17
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 EA-07 ARA-06 SAJ-01 /105 W
---------- 081121
R 311440Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3610
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, LY, EG
SUBJ: EVE OF GREAT 1ST OF SEPTEMBER REVOLUTION -
WELCOME TOTHE GREATEST POLITICAL SHOW ON EARTH

1. FESTIVITIES FOR SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "GREAT 1ST OF SEPTEMBER REVOLUTION" ARE MOVING INTO HIGH GEAR HERE IN LIBYA. VIRTUALLY EVERY MAJOR STREET IN LIBYA'S TWO CITIES AND MANY VILLAGES IS FESTOONED WITH MULTICOLORED LIGHTS, LIBYAN FLAGS AND SEPCIAL ARCHES CARRYING LARGE PICTURES OF LIBYA'S B.T. BARNUM, COL. MUAMMAR QADHAFI, THE DESERT BEDOUIN WHO OVER-NIGHT SEVEN YEARS AGO BECAME AN INTERNATIONAL SUPERSTAR.

2. PLANE LOADS OF THIRD WORLD DELEGATIONS WHICH IDENTIFY WITH QADHAFI'S REVOLUTIONARY STYLE ARE
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INGATHERING IN TRIPOLI FROM AS FAR A FIELD AS LESOTHO

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AND JAPAN. ACCORDING TO LARG, DELEGATIONS ARE POURING
IN FROM SOMALIA, IRAQ, SYRIA, MAURITANIA, TUNISIA,
PAKISTAN, USSR, TURKEY, ROMANIA, POLAND, BULGARIA,
UGANDA, RWANDA, CUBA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, TOGO, NIGERIA,
MALYSIA, BURUNDI, AFGHANSTAN, AND BANGLADESH. SPECIAL
ACCOMMODATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION HAVE BEEN PROVIDED
BY LARG FOR THOSE UNDERPRIVILEGED WHO CAN'T AFFORD
THE TRIP, BUT WANT TO WITNESS THE SHOW.

3. IN THE MAIN AREANA HERE IN TRIPOLI A MAMMOTH
MILITARY PARADE WILL GET UNDERWAY IN THE
MORNING WITH REPORTEDLY MORE THAN 150 TANKS AND
OTHER TRACK VEHICLES THAT ARE GUARANTEED TO PLEASE
THE SPECTATORS AND TUIN THE FEW REMAINING
DECENTLY PAVED STREETS IN THIS CITY THAT
ALREADY RESEMBLES ONE LARGE CONSTRUCTION SITE. BUT

THE MAIN ATTRACTION WILL BE COL. QADHAFI'S GREAT
POLITICAL HIGH WIRE BALANCING ACT. TREMENDOUS
SUSPENSE HAS BEEN GENERATED LOCALLY AND IN NEIGH-
BORING COUNTRIES AS TO WHETHER THE COLONEL, AFFECTIONATELY
REFERRED TO AS "RINGO" BY TRIPOLITANIANS,
WILL ENHANCE THE DANGER OF HIS ACT BY CUTTING CHAINS
OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH EGYPTIANS. QADHAFI'S
ACT THUS BECOMES EVEN MORE COMPLICATED BECAUSE
TIGHTROPE ON WHICH HE WALKS WAS PROBABLY BUILT BY
EGYPTIAN WORKERS WHO ALSO PROP UP THE ECONOMIC
SAFETY NET UNDER HIM. PERFORMANCE MADE EVEN MORE
DIFFICULT BY EGYPTIANS RATTLING ORIENTAL SABERS
"MADE IN RUSSIA" ON THE BORDER IN THE HOPE OF DISTRACTING
QADHAFI AND CAUSING HIS FALL. SADAT HAS DESCRIBED
QADHAFI'S ACT AS A FRAUD AND REDUNDANTLY REFERS TO
HIM AS A LUNATIC AND MADMAN. QADHAFI REPORTEDLY IS
QUITE DISTURBED BY LOUD CLINKING OF SADAT'S SABERS
WHICH HE CLAIMS TO HAVE ORIGINALLY GIVEN THE
EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT.

3. LOCAL FOREIGN OBSERVERS IN DIPLOMATIC CORPS
ARE INFECTED WITH CARNAVAL AIR OF POLITICAL INTRIGUE.
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WHILE WAGERING AMONG THIS GROUP WOULD BE UNDIPLO-
MATIC, "GENTLEMAN BITS" ARE NEVERTHELSS BEING MADE
ON WHETHER QADHAFI WILHIFIGURATIVELY TAKE THE
PLUNGE. DIPLOMATIC CORPS CONTINUES TO INCESTUOUSLY
FEED UPON EACH OTHERS RUMORS, THUS CAUSING SPECULA-
TION TO INCREASE EVEN MORE SO. BRITISH, WITH THEIR
TRADITIONAL APLOMB, ARE POOHPOOHING QADHAFI'S INTEN-
TIONS TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT SOME OF THEIR EUROPEAN

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COLLEAGUES ARE WONDERING WHETHER THEIR MID-DAY TENNIS GAMES UNDER THE DESERT SUN HAS FINALLY TAKEN ITS TOLL.

4. WHAT IS CLEAR HOWEVER IS THAT QADHAFI HAS CAREFULLY PREPARED THIS ACT. LOCAL PRESS CONSISTANTLY REFERS TO QADHAFI'S INCONCLUSIVE ATTEMPTS, THROUGH SEVERAL THIRD WORLD MEDIATORS INCLUDING YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT TITO, TO SILENCE HIS DISTRACTOR TO THE EAST. QADHAFI'S ARAB SOCIALIST UNION FAN CLUB HAS BEEN HOLDING PEP RALLIES FOR A MONTH TO EXPLAIN HIS SEPTEMBER 1ST ACT, AND THE NECESSITY OF THE SHOW GOING ON UNDER PRESENT POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES. IN THE MEANTIME, WE ALL WAIT WITH BAITED BREATH.
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